Collecting revenue by Government

1559. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in "Times of India' dated 19th October, 2001, under the heading "Collecting revenue by the sackful"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto and what corrective steps have been taken or Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir, however, the gunny bags photographed in the captioned news-item contain redundant record rather than files with revenue potential. Segregation was necessary in the post-restructuring era since the new jurisdiction has been carved on the basis of geographical area, involving large-scale transfer of files.

Scrutiny norms have been formulated keeping in view the considered policy of the Department to conduct in-depth investigation in selected cases to ensure effective deterrence to tax defaulters rather than to provide amnesty to any class. Timely refunds are being issued wherever due.

All out efforts are being made to increase tax base through focussed schemes like 1/6 criteria, making filing of return of income, obligatory for those who fulfil the same. In keeping with the need to induct latest technology, computerization has been taken up as a key result area.

The Department's response *vis-a-vis* appropriate infrastructure has been and will be consistent with the growing needs.

Action against corrupt tax officials

1560. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH LIBRA:
SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item captioned, "Government plans to retire corrupt tax officials", which appeared in the Times of India, New Delhi, dated the 9th November, 2001;

(b) if so, what are the details of the plans to retire corrupt tax official in the country; and

(c) whether Government are contemplating to draft some definite guidelines in this regard, and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) The Government is aware of the news-item. With a view to improve the efficiency and administrative machinery in the Department, periodic review is undertaken under FR 56(j) to weed out such government officials who have outlived their utility and have become ineffective as also those whose integrity is doubtful, this is a continuous and ongoing process. In this regard, the guidelines/procedure prescribed by the Department of Personnel and Training are followed.

Centralised computerisation in Income Tax Department 1561. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Income Tax Department is centrally computerising the operations all over the country;

(b) if so, by when it is likely to be completed;

(c) what is the total cost of this upgradation; and

(d) what steps are being taken to train the staff for better utilisation of this system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

The comprehensive computerisation plan for income Tax Department is being implemented in a phased manner. In the first phase Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai were covered during 1994-95. The second phase covering 57 other cities is currently in progress. The remaining Income Tax offices in 418 cities / towns are proposed to be covered in the third phase during 2002-2003.

(c) The year-wise expenditure under the bead "Computerisarion' is as under:—

Financial Year	Expenditure incurred (in Rs.)
1994-1995	275,814,845
1995-1996	66,526,085
1996-1997	94,468,959
1997-1998	402,050,000
1998-1999	206,628,325
1999-2000	399,850,753
2000-2001	171,781,451
TOTAL	1,617,120,418